

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1208

To protect women’s reproductive health and constitutional right to choice,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and
Human Resources

A BILL

To protect women’s reproductive health and constitutional
right to choice, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Planning and
5 Choice Protection Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) reproductive rights are central to the ability
9 of women to exercise full enjoyment of rights se-
10 cured to women by Federal and State law;

1 (2) abortion has been a legal and constitu-
2 tionally protected medical procedure throughout the
3 United States since 1973 and has become part of
4 mainstream medical practice as is evidenced by the
5 positions of medical institutions including the Amer-
6 ican Medical Association, the American College of
7 Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medi-
8 cal Women’s Association, the American Nurses As-
9 sociation, and the American Public Health Associa-
10 tion;

11 (3) the availability of abortion services is dimin-
12 ishing throughout the United States, as evidenced
13 by—

14 (A) the fact that 84 percent of counties in
15 the United States have no abortion provider;
16 and

17 (B) the fact that, between 1982 and 1992,
18 the number of abortion providers decreased in
19 45 States; and

20 (4)(A) the Department of Health and Human
21 Services and the Institute of Medicine of the Na-
22 tional Academy of Sciences have contributed to the
23 development of a report entitled “Healthy People
24 2000”, which urges that the rate of unintended

1 pregnancy in the United States be reduced by nearly
2 50 percent by the year 2000;

3 (B) nearly 60 percent, or approximately
4 3,100,000, of all pregnancies in the United States
5 each year are unintended, resulting in 1,500,000
6 abortions in the United States each year; and

7 (C) the provision of family planning services,
8 including emergency contraception, is a cost-effective
9 way of reducing the number of unintended preg-
10 nancies and abortions in the United States; and

11 (5) at a minimum, Congress must enact legisla-
12 tion establishing or retaining the following policies to
13 preserve the choice and reproductive health of
14 women:

15 (A) Authorization of family planning pro-
16 grams.

17 (B) The prohibition of any gag rule on in-
18 formation pertaining to reproductive medical
19 services.

20 (C) The promotion of equitable treatment
21 and coverage of prescription contraception
22 drugs and devices in the provision of health in-
23 surance.

24 (D) The provision of funding for emer-
25 gency contraceptive education.

1 (E) The establishment of breast cancer,
2 cervical cancer, and chlamydia screening pro-
3 grams in all 50 States.

4 (F) Full implementation of contraceptive
5 and infertility research programs.

6 (G) Funding through the medicaid pro-
7 gram under title XIX of the Social Security Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) for abortion services.

9 (H) Protection of women from clinic vio-
10 lence.

11 (I) Final approval of the drug called
12 Mifepristone or RU-486.

13 (J) The maintenance of a fundamental
14 right to choose, as stated in the Supreme Court
15 decision in Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

16 (K) The establishment of the right of the
17 District of Columbia to access locally raised
18 revenue to provide abortion services to low-in-
19 come women.

20 (L) The promotion of fairness in insur-
21 ance.

22 (M) The establishment of the ability of
23 military personnel overseas to obtain abortion
24 services.

1 **TITLE I—PREVENTION**
 2 **Subtitle A—Family Planning**

3 **SEC. 101. FAMILY PLANNING AMENDMENTS.**

4 Section 1001(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42
 5 U.S.C. 300(d)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(d) For the purpose of making grants and entering
 7 into contracts under this section, there are authorized to
 8 be appropriated \$275,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and
 9 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
 10 2000 through 2003.”.

11 **SEC. 102. FREEDOM OF FULL DISCLOSURE.**

12 Title XI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
 13 2000h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
 14 ing:

15 **“SEC. 1107. INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF REPRO-**
 16 **DUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

17 “(a) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
 18 ‘governmental authority’ means any authority of the Unit-
 19 ed States.

20 “(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any
 21 other provision of law, no governmental authority shall,
 22 in or through any program or activity that is administered
 23 or assisted by such authority and that provides health care
 24 services or information, limit the right of any person to
 25 provide, or the right of any person to receive, nonfraudu-

1 lent information about the availability of reproductive
2 health care services, including family planning, prenatal
3 care, adoption, and abortion services.”.

4 **Subtitle B—Prescription Equity** 5 **and Contraceptive Coverage**

6 **SEC. 111. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) each year, approximately 3,100,000 preg-
9 nancies, or nearly 60 percent of all pregnancies, in
10 this country are unintended;

11 (2) contraceptive services are part of basic
12 health care, allowing families to both adequately
13 space desired pregnancies and avoid unintended
14 pregnancy;

15 (3) studies show that contraceptives are cost-ef-
16 fective: for every \$1 of public funds invested in fam-
17 ily planning, \$4 to \$14 of public funds is saved in
18 pregnancy and health care-related costs;

19 (4) by reducing rates of unintended pregnancy,
20 contraceptives help reduce the need for abortion;

21 (5) unintended pregnancies lead to higher rates
22 of infant mortality, low-birth weight, and maternal
23 morbidity, and threaten the economic viability of
24 families;

1 (6) the National Commission to Prevent Infant
2 Mortality determined that “infant mortality could be
3 reduced by 10 percent if all women not desiring
4 pregnancy used contraception”;

5 (7) most women in the United States, including
6 two-thirds of women of childbearing age, rely on
7 some form of private employment-related insurance
8 (through either their own employer or a family mem-
9 ber’s employer) to defray their medical expenses;

10 (8) the vast majority of private insurers cover
11 prescription drugs, but many exclude coverage for
12 prescription contraceptives;

13 (9) private insurance provides extremely limited
14 coverage of contraceptives: half of traditional indem-
15 nity plans and preferred provider organizations, 20
16 percent of point-of-service networks, and 7 percent
17 of health maintenance organizations cover no contra-
18 ceptive methods other than sterilization;

19 (10) women of reproductive age spend 68 per-
20 cent more than men on out-of-pocket health care
21 costs, with contraceptives and reproductive health
22 care services accounting for much of the difference;

23 (11) the lack of contraceptive coverage in health
24 insurance places many effective forms of contracep-

1 tives beyond the financial reach of many women,
 2 leading to unintended pregnancies; and

3 (12) the Institute of Medicine Committee on
 4 Unintended Pregnancy recently recommended that
 5 “financial barriers to contraception be reduced by
 6 increasing the proportion of all health insurance
 7 policies that cover contraceptive services and sup-
 8 plies”.

9 **SEC. 112. AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT**
 10 **INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part 7 of subtitle
 12 B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security
 13 Act of 1974 (as added by section 603(a) of the Newborns’
 14 and Mothers’ Health Protection Act of 1996 and amended
 15 by section 702(a) of the Mental Health Parity Act of
 16 1996) is further amended by adding at the end the follow-
 17 ing new section:

18 **“SEC. 713. STANDARDS RELATING TO BENEFITS FOR CON-**
 19 **TRACEPTIVES.**

20 “(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR COVERAGE.—A group
 21 health plan, and a health insurance issuer providing health
 22 insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan,
 23 may not—

24 “(1) exclude or restrict benefits for prescription
 25 contraceptive drugs or devices approved by the Food

1 and Drug Administration, or generic equivalents ap-
 2 proved as substitutable by the Food and Drug Ad-
 3 ministration, if such plan provides benefits for other
 4 outpatient prescription drugs or devices; or

5 “(2) exclude or restrict benefits for outpatient
 6 contraceptive services if such plan provides benefits
 7 for other outpatient services provided by a health
 8 care professional (referred to in this section as ‘out-
 9 patient health care services’).

10 “(b) PROHIBITIONS.—A group health plan, and a
 11 health insurance issuer providing health insurance cov-
 12 erage in connection with a group health plan, may not—

13 “(1) deny to an individual eligibility, or contin-
 14 ued eligibility, to enroll or to renew coverage under
 15 the terms of the plan because of the individual’s or
 16 enrollee’s use or potential use of items or services
 17 that are covered in accordance with the requirements
 18 of this section;

19 “(2) provide monetary payments or rebates to
 20 a covered individual to encourage such individual to
 21 accept less than the minimum protections available
 22 under this section;

23 “(3) penalize or otherwise reduce or limit the
 24 reimbursement of a health care professional because
 25 such professional prescribed contraceptive drugs or

1 devices, or provided contraceptive services, described
 2 in subsection (a), in accordance with this section; or
 3 “(4) provide incentives (monetary or otherwise)
 4 to a health care professional to induce such profes-
 5 sional to withhold from a covered individual contra-
 6 ceptive drugs or devices, or contraceptive services,
 7 described in subsection (a).

8 “(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section
 10 shall be construed—

11 “(A) as preventing a group health plan
 12 and a health insurance issuer providing health
 13 insurance coverage in connection with a group
 14 health plan from imposing deductibles, coinsur-
 15 ance, or other cost-sharing or limitations in re-
 16 lation to—

17 “(i) benefits for contraceptive drugs
 18 under the plan, except that such a deduct-
 19 ible, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing or
 20 limitation for any such drug may not be
 21 greater than such a deductible, coinsur-
 22 ance, or cost-sharing or limitation for any
 23 outpatient prescription drug otherwise cov-
 24 ered under the plan;

1 “(ii) benefits for contraceptive devices
2 under the plan, except that such a deduct-
3 ible, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing or
4 limitation for any such device may not be
5 greater than such a deductible, coinsur-
6 ance, or cost-sharing or limitation for any
7 outpatient prescription device otherwise
8 covered under the plan; and

9 “(iii) benefits for outpatient contra-
10 ceptive services under the plan, except that
11 such a deductible, coinsurance, or other
12 cost-sharing or limitation for any such
13 service may not be greater than such a de-
14 ductible, coinsurance, or cost-sharing or
15 limitation for any outpatient health care
16 service otherwise covered under the plan;
17 and

18 “(B) as requiring a group health plan and
19 a health insurance issuer providing health in-
20 surance coverage in connection with a group
21 health plan to cover experimental or investiga-
22 tional contraceptive drugs or devices, or experi-
23 mental or investigational contraceptive services,
24 described in subsection (a), except to the extent
25 that the plan or issuer provides coverage for

1 other experimental or investigational outpatient
 2 prescription drugs or devices, or experimental
 3 or investigational outpatient health care serv-
 4 ices.

5 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—As used in paragraph (1),
 6 the term ‘limitation’ includes—

7 “(A) in the case of a contraceptive drug or
 8 device, restricting the type of health care pro-
 9 fessionals that may prescribe such drugs or de-
 10 vices, utilization review provisions, and limits on
 11 the volume of prescription drugs or devices that
 12 may be obtained on the basis of a single con-
 13 sultation with a professional; or

14 “(B) in the case of an outpatient contra-
 15 ceptive service, restricting the type of health
 16 care professionals that may provide such serv-
 17 ices, utilization review provisions, requirements
 18 relating to second opinions prior to the coverage
 19 of such services, and requirements relating to
 20 preauthorizations prior to the coverage of such
 21 services.

22 “(d) NOTICE UNDER GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The
 23 imposition of the requirements of this section shall be
 24 treated as a material modification in the terms of the plan
 25 described in section 102(a)(1), for purposes of assuring

1 notice of such requirements under the plan, except that
 2 the summary description required to be provided under the
 3 last sentence of section 104(b)(1) with respect to such
 4 modification shall be provided by not later than 60 days
 5 after the first day of the first plan year in which such
 6 requirements apply.

7 “(e) PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
 8 construed to preempt any provision of State law to the
 9 extent that such State law establishes, implements, or con-
 10 tinues in effect any standard or requirement that provides
 11 protections for enrollees that are greater than the protec-
 12 tions provided under this section.

13 “(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘out-
 14 patient contraceptive services’ means consultations, exami-
 15 nations, procedures, and medical services, provided on an
 16 outpatient basis and related to the use of contraceptive
 17 methods (including natural family planning) to prevent an
 18 unintended pregnancy.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 20 in section 1 of such Act, as amended by section 603 of
 21 the Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act of
 22 1996 and section 702 of the Mental Health Parity Act
 23 of 1996, is amended by inserting after the item relating
 24 to section 712 the following new item:

“Sec. 713. Standards relating to benefits for contraceptives.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 2 this section shall apply with respect to plan years begin-
 3 ning on or after January 1, 1998.

4 **SEC. 113. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**
 5 **ACT RELATING TO THE GROUP MARKET.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 2 of part A of title
 7 XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (as added by sec-
 8 tion 604(a) of the Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protec-
 9 tion Act of 1996 and amended by section 703(a) of the
 10 Mental Health Parity Act of 1996) is further amended
 11 by adding at the end the following new section:

12 **“SEC. 2706. STANDARDS RELATING TO BENEFITS FOR CON-**
 13 **TRACEPTIVES.**

14 “(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR COVERAGE.—A group
 15 health plan, and a health insurance issuer providing health
 16 insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan,
 17 may not—

18 “(1) exclude or restrict benefits for prescription
 19 contraceptive drugs or devices approved by the Food
 20 and Drug Administration, or generic equivalents ap-
 21 proved as substitutable by the Food and Drug Ad-
 22 ministration, if such plan provides benefits for other
 23 outpatient prescription drugs or devices; or

24 “(2) exclude or restrict benefits for outpatient
 25 contraceptive services if such plan provides benefits

1 for other outpatient services provided by a health
2 care professional (referred to in this section as ‘out-
3 patient health care services’).

4 “(b) PROHIBITIONS.—A group health plan, and a
5 health insurance issuer providing health insurance cov-
6 erage in connection with a group health plan, may not—

7 “(1) deny to an individual eligibility, or contin-
8 ued eligibility, to enroll or to renew coverage under
9 the terms of the plan because of the individual’s or
10 enrollee’s use or potential use of items or services
11 that are covered in accordance with the requirements
12 of this section;

13 “(2) provide monetary payments or rebates to
14 a covered individual to encourage such individual to
15 accept less than the minimum protections available
16 under this section;

17 “(3) penalize or otherwise reduce or limit the
18 reimbursement of a health care professional because
19 such professional prescribed contraceptive drugs or
20 devices, or provided contraceptive services, described
21 in subsection (a), in accordance with this section; or

22 “(4) provide incentives (monetary or otherwise)
23 to a health care professional to induce such profes-
24 sional to withhold from a covered individual contra-

1 ceptive drugs or devices, or contraceptive services,
2 described in subsection (a).

3 “(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section
5 shall be construed—

6 “(A) as preventing a group health plan
7 and a health insurance issuer providing health
8 insurance coverage in connection with a group
9 health plan from imposing deductibles, coinsur-
10 ance, or other cost-sharing or limitations in re-
11 lation to—

12 “(i) benefits for contraceptive drugs
13 under the plan, except that such a deduct-
14 ible, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing or
15 limitation for any such drug may not be
16 greater than such a deductible, coinsur-
17 ance, or cost-sharing or limitation for any
18 outpatient prescription drug otherwise cov-
19 ered under the plan;

20 “(ii) benefits for contraceptive devices
21 under the plan, except that such a deduct-
22 ible, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing or
23 limitation for any such device may not be
24 greater than such a deductible, coinsur-
25 ance, or cost-sharing or limitation for any

1 outpatient prescription device otherwise
 2 covered under the plan; and

3 “(iii) benefits for outpatient contra-
 4 ceptive services under the plan, except that
 5 such a deductible, coinsurance, or other
 6 cost-sharing or limitation for any such
 7 service may not be greater than such a de-
 8 ductible, coinsurance, or cost-sharing or
 9 limitation for any outpatient health care
 10 service otherwise covered under the plan;
 11 and

12 “(B) as requiring a group health plan and
 13 a health insurance issuer providing health in-
 14 surance coverage in connection with a group
 15 health plan to cover experimental or investiga-
 16 tional contraceptive drugs or devices, or experi-
 17 mental or investigational contraceptive services,
 18 described in subsection (a), except to the extent
 19 that the plan or issuer provides coverage for
 20 other experimental or investigational outpatient
 21 prescription drugs or devices, or experimental
 22 or investigational outpatient health care serv-
 23 ices.

24 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—As used in paragraph (1),
 25 the term ‘limitation’ includes—

1 “(A) in the case of a contraceptive drug or
2 device, restricting the type of health care pro-
3 fessionals that may prescribe such drugs or de-
4 vices, utilization review provisions, and limits on
5 the volume of prescription drugs or devices that
6 may be obtained on the basis of a single con-
7 sultation with a professional; or

8 “(B) in the case of an outpatient contra-
9 ceptive service, restricting the type of health
10 care professionals that may provide such serv-
11 ices, utilization review provisions, requirements
12 relating to second opinions prior to the coverage
13 of such services, and requirements relating to
14 preauthorizations prior to the coverage of such
15 services.

16 “(d) NOTICE.—A group health plan under this part
17 shall comply with the notice requirement under section
18 713(d) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act
19 of 1974 with respect to the requirements of this section
20 as if such section applied to such plan.

21 “(e) PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
22 construed to preempt any provision of State law to the
23 extent that such State law establishes, implements, or con-
24 tinues in effect any standard or requirement that provides

1 protections for enrollees that are greater than the protec-
 2 tions provided under this section.

3 “(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘out-
 4 patient contraceptive services’ means consultations, exami-
 5 nations, procedures, and medical services, provided on an
 6 outpatient basis and related to the use of contraceptive
 7 methods (including natural family planning) to prevent an
 8 unintended pregnancy.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 10 this section shall apply with respect to group health plans
 11 for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 1998.

12 **SEC. 114. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**
 13 **ACT RELATING TO THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 3 of part B of title
 15 XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (as added by sec-
 16 tion 605(a) of the Newborn’s and Mother’s Health Protec-
 17 tion Act of 1996) is amended by adding at the end the
 18 following new section:

19 **“SEC. 2752. STANDARDS RELATING TO BENEFITS FOR CON-**
 20 **TRACEPTIVES.**

21 “The provisions of section 2706 shall apply to health
 22 insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer
 23 in the individual market in the same manner as they apply
 24 to health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance

1 issuer in connection with a group health plan in the small
2 or large group market.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
4 this section shall apply with respect to health insurance
5 coverage offered, sold, issued, renewed, in effect, or oper-
6 ated in the individual market on or after January 1, 1998.

7 **Subtitle C—Emergency** 8 **Contraceptives**

9 **SEC. 121. EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE EDUCATION.**

10 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

11 (1) EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE.—The term
12 “emergency contraceptive” means a drug or device
13 (as the terms are defined in section 201 of the Fed-
14 eral Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321))
15 that is designed—

16 (A) to be used after sexual relations; and

17 (B) to prevent pregnancy, by preventing
18 ovulation, fertilization of an egg, or implanta-
19 tion of an egg in a uterus.

20 (2) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term
21 “health care provider” means anyone licensed or cer-
22 tified under State law to provide health care services
23 who is operating within the scope of such license.

24 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 1201(a) of the
2 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a)).

3 (b) EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PUBLIC EDU-
4 CATION PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services, acting through the Director of the
7 Centers for Disease Control, shall develop and dis-
8 seminate to the public information on emergency
9 contraceptives.

10 (2) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION.—The
11 Secretary may develop and disseminate the informa-
12 tion directly or through arrangements with nonprofit
13 organizations, consumer groups, institutions of high-
14 er education, Federal, State, or local agencies, and
15 clinics.

16 (3) INFORMATION.—The information shall in-
17 clude, at a minimum, information describing emer-
18 gency contraceptives, and explaining the use, effects,
19 efficacy, and availability of the contraceptives.

20 (c) EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE INFORMATION
21 PROGRAM FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
23 Human Services, acting through the Administrator
24 of the Health Resources and Services Administra-

tion, shall develop and disseminate to health care providers information on emergency contraceptives.

(2) INFORMATION.—The information shall include, at a minimum—

(A) information describing the use, effects, and efficacy and availability of the contraceptives;

(B) a recommendation from the Secretary regarding the use of the contraceptives in appropriate cases; and

(C) information explaining how to obtain copies of the information developed under subsection (b), for distribution to the patients of the providers.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for the period consisting of fiscal years 1999 through 2001.

TITLE II—RESEARCH

SEC. 201. PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES REGARDING BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER AND CHLAMYDIA.

It is the sense of Congress that the programs of grants under section 318 and title XV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247c and 300k et seq.)

1 should receive a level of funding that is adequate for all
 2 States, or entities in all States, as appropriate, to receive
 3 grants under such section and title.

4 **SEC. 202. PROGRAMS REGARDING CONTRACEPTION AND**
 5 **INFERTILITY.**

6 (a) RESEARCH CENTERS.—It is the sense of Con-
 7 gress that the program assisting research centers under
 8 section 452A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 9 285g–5) should receive a level of funding that is adequate
 10 for a reasonable number of research centers to be operated
 11 under the program.

12 (b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM REGARDING CON-
 13 DUCT OF RESEARCH.—It is the sense of Congress that
 14 the program of loan-repayment contracts under section
 15 487B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C 288–
 16 2) should receive a level of funding that is adequate for
 17 a reasonable number of individuals to conduct research
 18 under the program.

19 **TITLE III—CHOICE PROTECTION**

20 **SEC. 301. FUNDING FOR ABORTION SERVICES.**

21 It is the sense of Congress that Federal and State
 22 governments should provide funding for abortion services
 23 to women eligible for assistance through the medicaid pro-
 24 gram carried out under title XIX of the Social Security

1 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), as such services are essential
2 to the health and well-being of women.

3 **SEC. 302. CLINIC VIOLENCE.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) Federal resources are necessary to ensure
6 that women have safe access to reproductive health
7 facilities and that health professionals can deliver
8 services in a secure environment free from violence
9 and threats of force; and

10 (2) it is necessary and appropriate to use Fed-
11 eral resources to combat the nationwide campaign of
12 violence and harassment against reproductive health
13 centers.

14 **SEC. 303. APPROVAL OF RU-486.**

15 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

16 (1) ensure that a decision by the Food and
17 Drug Administration to approve the drug called
18 Mifepristone or RU-486 shall be made only on the
19 basis provided in law; and

20 (2) assess initiatives by which the Department
21 of Health and Human Services can promote the
22 testing, licensing, and manufacturing in the United
23 States of the drug or other antiprogestins.

24 **SEC. 304. FREEDOM OF CHOICE.**

25 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v.*
2 Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) established constitu-
3 tionally based limits on the power of States to re-
4 strict the right of a woman to choose to terminate
5 a pregnancy. Under the strict scrutiny standard
6 enunciated in the *Roe v. Wade* decision, States were
7 required to demonstrate that laws restricting the
8 right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy
9 were the least restrictive means available to achieve
10 a compelling State interest. Since 1989, the Su-
11 preme Court has no longer applied the strict scru-
12 tiny standard in reviewing challenges to the constitu-
13 tionality of State laws restricting such rights.

14 (2) As a result of the recent modification by the
15 Supreme Court of the strict scrutiny standard enun-
16 ciated in the *Roe v. Wade* decision, certain States
17 have restricted the right of women to choose to ter-
18 minate a pregnancy or to utilize some forms of con-
19 traception, and the restrictions operate cumulatively
20 to—

21 (A)(i) increase the number of illegal or
22 medically less safe abortions, often resulting in
23 physical impairment, loss of reproductive capac-
24 ity, or death to the women involved;

1 (ii) burden interstate and international
2 commerce by forcing women to travel from
3 States in which legal barriers render contracep-
4 tion or abortion unavailable or unsafe to other
5 States or foreign nations;

6 (iii) interfere with freedom of travel be-
7 tween and among the various States;

8 (iv) burden the medical and economic re-
9 sources of States that continue to provide
10 women with access to safe and legal abortion;
11 and

12 (v) interfere with the ability of medical
13 professionals to provide health services;

14 (B) obstruct access to and use of contra-
15 ceptive and other medical techniques that are
16 part of interstate and international commerce;

17 (C) discriminate between women who are
18 able to afford interstate and international travel
19 and women who are not, a disproportionate
20 number of whom belong to racial or ethnic mi-
21 norities; and

22 (D) infringe on the ability of women to ex-
23 ercise full enjoyment of rights secured to the
24 women by Federal and State law, both statu-
25 tory and constitutional.

1 (3) Although Congress may not by legislation
2 create constitutional rights, Congress may, where
3 authorized by a constitutional provision enumerating
4 the powers of Congress and not prohibited by a con-
5 stitutional provision, enact legislation to create and
6 secure statutory rights in areas of legitimate na-
7 tional concern.

8 (4) Congress has the affirmative power under
9 section 8 of article I of the Constitution and under
10 section 5 of the 14th amendment to the Constitution
11 to enact legislation to prohibit State interference
12 with interstate commerce, liberty, or equal protection
13 of the laws.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to es-
15 tablish, as a statutory matter, limitations on the power
16 of a State to restrict the freedom of a woman to terminate
17 a pregnancy in order to achieve the same limitations as
18 were provided, as a constitutional matter, under the strict
19 scrutiny standard of review enunciated in the Roe v. Wade
20 decision and applied in subsequent cases from 1973
21 through 1988.

22 (c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
23 “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Common-
24 wealth of Puerto Rico, and each other territory or posses-
25 sion of the United States.

1 (d) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—A State—

2 (1) may not restrict the freedom of a woman to
3 choose whether or not to terminate a pregnancy be-
4 fore fetal viability;

5 (2) may restrict the freedom of a woman to
6 choose whether or not to terminate a pregnancy
7 after fetal viability unless such a termination is nec-
8 essary to preserve the life or health of the woman;
9 and

10 (3) may impose requirements on the perform-
11 ance of abortion procedures if such requirements are
12 medically necessary to protect the health of women
13 undergoing such procedures.

14 (e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
15 tion shall be construed to—

16 (1) prevent a State from protecting unwilling
17 individuals or private health care institutions from
18 being required to participate in the performance of
19 abortions to which the individuals or institutions are
20 conscientiously opposed;

21 (2) prevent a State from declining to pay for
22 the performance of abortions; or

23 (3) prevent a State from requiring a minor to
24 involve a parent, guardian, or other responsible
25 adult before terminating a pregnancy.

1 **SEC. 305. FAIRNESS IN INSURANCE.**

2 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Fed-
3 eral law shall be construed to prohibit a health plan from
4 offering coverage for the full range of reproductive health
5 care services, including abortion services.

6 **SEC. 306. REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE MILI-**
7 **TARY.**

8 Section 1093 of title 10, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
11 riod the following: “or in a case in which the preg-
12 nancy involved is the result of an act of rape or in-
13 cest or the abortion involved is medically necessary
14 or appropriate”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (b) (as added by sec-
16 tion 738 of the National Defense Authorization Act
17 for Fiscal Year 1996 (Public Law 104–106; 110
18 Stat. 383)); and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(b) ABORTIONS IN FACILITIES OVERSEAS.—Sub-
21 section (a) does not limit the performing of an abortion
22 in a facility of the uniformed services located outside the
23 48 contiguous States of the United States if—

24 “(1) the cost of performing the abortion is fully
25 paid from a source or sources other than funds
26 available to the Department of Defense;

1 “(2) abortions are not prohibited by the laws of
2 the jurisdiction where the facility is located; and

3 “(3) the abortion would otherwise be permitted
4 under the laws applicable to the provision of health
5 care to members and former members of the uni-
6 formed services and their dependents in such
7 facility.”.

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